Bio 160 – Guide to Proposal Presentation

Your allotted time is 15 minutes. Count on NO MORE than 10 – 12 minutes to talk, regardless of how many people are involved in your project, so that the audience has time to ask questions. PowerPoint presentations with the digital projector are strongly recommended in order to get through your material quickly. If you are uncomfortable with PowerPoint, you can also project Word files, or use overheads. Divide the presentation equally such that each member of a pair or group has something to say.

The presentations should be similar in organization to the full proposal. Present (1) the question and why it is interesting, (2) the pattern that motivated your interest in the question and how it relates to the question (here you must use a figure that is drawn and projected with the digital projector or an overhead; you do not have time to do this on the board!), (3) the goal of your study, (4) your hypotheses in outline format, (5) background information on your system (species, sites, aspects of your system that relate to your question), (6) for each hypothesis- describe the design of your survey or experiment, the methods used to collect data and create manipulations, (7) **present predicted results** that reflect BOTH the null hypothesis and those results that would lead you to reject the null hypothesis as predicted by your alternate hypothesis. The most important parts of the presentation are the description of the patterns, the goal, the hypotheses and the test of the hypotheses. Again, these need to be listed somewhere (PowerPoint or Word projected with the digital projector or overheads).

As a final comment, remember, the main reason for the presentations is to have the audience think about your project and to give you constructive criticism to help you write your full proposal.